

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

DLOS-06 SAL-01 OES-06 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /083 W

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P R 051435Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4498

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF:A) ANKARA 5963 (DTG 040946Z AUG 76), B) ANKARA 5845
(DTG 300526Z JUL 76)

1. MINENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC ANNOUNCED LATE
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AUGUST 4 THAT THE SEISMIC EXPLORATION SHIP SISMIK HAD

COMPLETED THE FIRST PART OF ITS PROGRAM AND HAD RETURNED TO CANAKKALE. HE SAID " WITHIN A FEW DAYS" THE SISMİK WILL SAIL ON ITS SECOND MISSION.

2. THE AUGUST 5 TURKISH PRESS REPORTED THAT THE NAVY NAVIGATION, HYDROGRAPHY AND OCEANOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT HAD ISSUED A SECOND NOTICE TO MARINERS REGARDING THE SISMİK, THIS ONE COVERING THE PERIOD AUGUST 6-21. THE REGION OF OPERATIONS REPORTEDLY COVERS A PENTAGONAL AREA FROM TEKEBURUN AT THE MOUTH OF THE DARDANELLES, WEST TO A POINT SOUTH OF IMROZ (40 02' 00"N, 25 39'00" E), SOUTHWEST TO A POINT SOUTH OF THE SOUTHEASTERN TIP OF LIMNOS (39 38'00"N, 25 22'00"E), SOUTHEAST TO A POINT WEST OF LESBOS (39 19'00"N, 25 39'00"E) AND NORTHWEST TO BABABURNU LIGHTHOUSE AT THE ENTRANCE TO EDREMIT BAY. (THIS REGION INCLUDES WATERS WITHIN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ARE GREEK CONCESSION AREAS).

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL CONVENE AUGUST 5 TO DISCUSS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GREEK SEISMIC SHIP NAUTILUS WITH " SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE BY THE NAUTILUS IN THE SISMİK'S ACTIVITIES." IN A SIMILAR FASHION, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT MFA SEC GEN ELEK DAG HAD GIVEN A WRITTEN WARNING TO THE GREEK EMBASSY THAT THE GOT WOULD TAKE " SEVERE MEASURES" IF THE NAUTILUS ATTEMPTED ELECTRONIC JAMMING OF THE SISMİK'S SIGNALS.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SOME OF PREVIOUS POINTS WITH MFA AEGEAN/LOS CHIEF TURMEN AUGUST 5. TURMEN LABELLED AS "THIRD-RATE FICTION" THE HURRIYET REPORT OF AN ELEK DAG WARNING TO THE GREEKS AND LIKE HIS COLLEAGUE HALIL DAG (REF A), ARGUED THAT SINCE THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IS DISPUTED, ALL NATIONS ARE FREE TO CONDUCT SEISMIC RESEARCH. TURMEN WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER A NOTICE TO MARINERS HAD BEEN ISSUED, BUT SAID THAT THE GOT HAD BEEN EXPECTING ONE. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED IF THE REPORTED COORDINATES WERE ACCURATE AND WHETHER THE SISMİK ACCORDINGLY MIGHT BE ENTERING DISPUTED AREAS, TURMEN NOTED THAT THE GOT CONSIDERED THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER ALL NON-TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE AEGEAN AS DISPUTED AND THAT THE SISMİK HAD BEEN IN DISPUTED WATERS IN ITS INITIAL VOYAGE.

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EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT ONE DEFINITION OF DISPUTED WATERS MIGHT BE THOSE AREAS WITH OVERLAPPING CONCESSIONS. TURMEN STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ONLY REMAINING GREEK CONCESSION IN THIS AREA WAS THE LVO CONCESSION AND THAT THE CONOCO CONCESSION IN THE LIMNOS AREA HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. (HOWEVER, BY EMBASSY CALCULATIONS, AREA OUTLINED IN THE NEW NOTICE WOULD INCLUDE A PORTION OF THE AREA ALLOTTED BY GOG TO LVO). TURMEN ALSO STATED THAT

GTO DID NOT KNOW WITH PRECISION WHAT AREAS THE GOG
CONSIDERED DISPUTED. HE SAID THAT DURING THE RECENT
TALKS IN ANKARA, GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMADOPOULOS HAD
RESPONDED T QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT AREAS THE GOG CONSIDERED
DISPUTED BY SAYING, "YOU KNOW".
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Message Attributes

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